

THE ECUMENICAL COURIER

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YALE HOST TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Yale University Divinity School, New Haven, Conn., will be the capital of the ecumenical world from July 15 to August 7. Not since the 1948 Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Evanston has such a number of distinguished foreign churchmen visited this coun-

Occasion for the gathering of world Christian leaders is the annual meeting of the 90-member Central Committee. The Central Committee meets from July 30-Aug. 7. World Council committees and consultations will bring about 200 participants to New Haven July 15-30.

The Connecticut Council of Churches and the New Haven Council of Churches are making extensive plans for the public meetings. On Thursday, Aug. 1, at Yale University's famed Polsey Hall the life and work of the ecumenical movement will be presented. Participants include Bishop Otto Dibelius of Berlin, presently target of East German governmental authorities for his forthright refusal to bow to the demands of the Communist government; Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft and Dr. Leslie E. Coke, general and associate general secretaries of the World Council of Churches.

Neighboring state and local councils of churches are being invited to send motorcades to this meeting and the afternoon ecumenical service at Center Church, New Haven, on August 4. The Most Rev. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, will conduct the service.



Yale University Divinity School

Congregations or councils of churches interested in attending the public meetings are invited to write for reservations to: New Haven Council of Churches, 52 Howe Street, New Haven, Conn.

The Central Committee is the body which meets annually to determine the Council's policies between the larger assemblies held every six years. Last summer it met in Hungary.

Main work of the Committee is to guide the activities of the Council's general secretariat in the areas of refugee work and inter-church aid, ecumenical action, international affairs, and studies.

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39 CHURCHES APPOINT DELEGATES TO OBERLIN

Thirty-nine major church bodies in the United States and Canada have named 265 delegates to the North American Faith and Order Study Conference to be held at Oberlin, Ohio, Sept. 3-10.

"The Nature of the Unity We Seek" is the theme for the conference sponsored by the Canadian, World, and National Councils of Churches.

For two years sixteen regional interdenominational study groups have been tackling the difficult problems involved in achieving fuller Christian unity. Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, executive secretary of the New York office of the World Council of Churches, says that a main purpose of the Oberlin conference is "to bring the subject of church unity down from the ecclesiastical stratosphere to a level of general Christian concern."

"There have been hundreds of important conferences concerned with cooperation in the immediate tasks of the churches," Dr. Cavert says.

"Oberlin will represent the concern which goes beyond cooperation and frankly faces the question of union," he says. "It will focus attention on the issues which keep the churches divided into separate and autonomous denominations and will challenge the Christian conscience with both the spiritual and practical necessity for an advance toward a fuller expression of unity. The central problem is to develop a form of unity which is consistent with liberty and diversity."

Overseas guests include Bishop Hanns Lilje of Germany who will preach the sermon at the Sunday Communion Service and Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, who will be preacher at the Ecumenical Service to be held Sept. 8.

Although the overwhelming majority of the delegates are pastors, church officials, bishops, and seminary professors, lay delegates include teachers, lawyers, and business men. A museum curator, two doctors, a publisher and a psychologist will join in the theological study.

The Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, chairman of the U.S. Conference for the WCC, Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, and Dean Liston Pope, Yale Divinity School, host and Central Committee member, discuss summer meeting.

Central Committee at Yale

(Continued from page 1)

The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, a joint agency of the World Council and the International Missionary Council, will report on points of acute international tension.

The Committee will hear a report on progress of the three-year study on Christian responsibility in areas of rapid social change.

Scheduled as a major item on the Central Committee agenda is a discussion of the missionary and evangelistic outreach of the Church in relation to its task in meeting human need.

The place and theme of the 1960 Assembly of the World Council of Churches will be discussed by the Central Committee. Earlier this year, the twelve-member Executive Committee meeting in Geneva "received sympathetically an invitation from Ceylon.

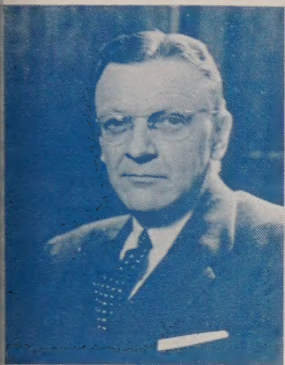
Relations between the World Council of Churches and churches in Communist countries are likely to come in for careful scrutiny at the New Haven meeting. Following the October revolt in Hungary, several Reformed Church leaders were subject to accusations and arrests.

The contacts between the World Council and the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church, not a Council member, will also be reviewed. This has been discussed at most of the recent meetings of the Council.

There are seventy-three clergymen, eleven laymen, and six women from thirty-one different nations on the Central Committee. The ancient Eastern Orthodox Churches and the new Christian churches of Asia and Africa are represented on the Committee.



Dr. Roswell P. Barnes Elected J. S. World Council Executive



Dr. Roswell P. Barnes

for the World Council of Churches, effective January 1, 1958.

In a meeting at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., May 9, 1950 churchmen representing thirty-two major U.S. denominations elected Dr. Barnes to the top position in the New York office of the World Council. Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, the retiring secretary, has held the position since 1954. He is former general secretary of the National Council of Churches.

Dr. Barnes has been the National Council of Churches' associate general secretary for the past four years. In his key position with the NCC he is particularly concerned with the relation of the churches to public affairs.

"The World Council of Churches is fortunate to secure the services of Dr. Barnes. He has had a long and distinguished ministry in the ecumenical movement. He will bring to the new position a wide knowledge, keen intellectual gifts, and a deep unselfish personal consecration," the Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, chairman of the U.S. Conference, said.

From 1950 to 1953 Dr. Barnes was executive secretary of the National Council's Division of Christian Life and Work. He moved into the second-ranking post in the NCC in 1953. In that capacity he has helped develop much of the strategy for the interdenominational organization.

Dr. Barnes has long been active in the cooperative movement of the churches on the na-

One of the nation's outstanding church leaders has been chosen to head the World Council of Churches. Dr. Roswell P. Barnes, associate general secretary of the National Council of Churches, was elected executive secretary of the U.S. Conference



At the ecumenical service at a recent refugee meeting in Geneva—Dr. Elfan Rees and Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, WCC; Auguste Lindt, UN High Commissioner for Refugees; and Harold Tittman, head of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration.

tional and international level. In addition to his twenty-one year association with the National Council and its predecessor, the Federal Council of Churches, he has played an important role in the formation and present program of the World Council of Churches.

A minister of the Presbyterian Church, USA, he was a delegate of his church to Evanston, Ill., Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1954. He was chairman of the section on the churches and ethnic and racial tensions at the assembly. In 1948 at the constituting assembly in Amsterdam, he was a section liaison secretary.

His earlier international experience dates from 1924 when he was a member of the general committee of the World's Student Christian Federation and attended meetings on the continent and in England. In 1937 he participated in the Oxford (England) Conference on Church, Community, and State. He attended a meeting of world church leaders in Geneva in 1939.

In the Federal Council of Churches which he joined in 1936 Dr. Barnes was first an executive in the Department of International Justice and Goodwill. He served as an associate general secretary from 1940 to 1950.

NEW W.C.C. PUBLICATIONS

The Church Is There, a 59-page paperback book published by Seabury Press, Greenwich, Conn., is now available for \$95. Written by Dr. Leslie Cooke, head of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, this brief book gives an intimate picture of the presence of the Church among the refugees in Austria and Hungary, Hong Kong and Egypt.

A four-page, tabloid-sized issue of the *Greek Team News* has appeared. This gives news of the cooperative technical assistance program carried on by young Christians from many countries and churches. They work in a low-income area of Northern Greece. The newspaper carries features, facts, and pictures.

A folder on the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland, outlines its general aims, history, and the type of courses offered. It is illustrated. Single copies are free of charge.

What effect did the 1954 Evanston Assembly of the World Council of Churches have? A survey of comments sent in by the member churches on the Report of the Second Assembly has been published by the Council.

Entitled *Response to Evanston*, it costs \$.45 for the 86-page paper-bound book. All four publications are available from the New York Office.

A Survey of the Training of the Ministry in Madagascar has been published by the International Missionary Council and is available for \$.40 postpaid from the IMC, 156 Fifth Ave., N.Y. The report is based on a survey of theological education made in the autumn of 1956 by Dr. Charles Ranson, Dr. F. Birkeli, Prof. F. Michaeli, and Dr. T. Rasendrashina.

U.S. Summer Courses

Applications are being accepted for ecumenical institutes featuring world famous Christian leaders in Boston, Dallas, Madison, N.J., and Chicago.

The five-day institutes are designed for pastors and laymen who wish to know more about the current life and thought of the ecumenical movement, particularly as it relates to the local church.

More than thirty leading U.S. seminaries have joined with the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches in sponsoring the institutes. They are to be held at Boston University School of Theology (July 8-12); Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N.J. (July 22-26); Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Tex. (Aug. 26-30); and two in the Chicago area at the Federated Theological Faculty, University of Chicago, and Garrett Biblical Seminary (Aug. 12-16).

For information concerning speakers and costs write to the Ecumenical Institute at the host seminaries.

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W.C.C. Charts New Directions At U.S. Conference Sessions

A "look ahead" note predominated at the annual meeting of the United States Conference of the World Council of Churches at Buck Hill, Pa., May 8-10. The 150 delegates to the conference heard speeches in which new directions in evangelism, international affairs, race relations, and unity were discussed.

The forthcoming North American Faith and Order Study Conference, to be held at Oberlin, Ohio, was examined by Dr. Walter Horton, professor at Oberlin Graduate School of Theology. The unusual interest and concern in the conference is because "long-delayed and long-overdue considerations will be given to the most basic issue in the whole ecumenical movement," said.

This issue, according to Dr. Horton, is "what are we after when we joined it, and what are we hoping to accomplish by staying in it?"

Danger of Nuclear Tests

On the subject of experimental tests of nuclear energy, Dr. O Frederick Nolde, said that the problem reduces itself to the difficult choice between an apparently uncertain risk to health and apparently clear risk to security."

He said there should be "firm commitment" to discontinue nuclear tests either "at the time when the danger to health is established with reasonable scientific certainty" or at the time when an adequate international agreement can be negotiated.

Information from scientists "brought together under impartial international auspices" should be sought. When scientific opinion predominantly asserts immediate risks to health from nuclear tests, "the risk of an adequate international agreement to discontinue tests must be small," he stated.

Missionary Initiative Shifts

A shift in emphasis of mission initiative from the West to Asia was predicted by Dr. Charles Ranson, general secretary of the International Missionary Council. He reported on the recent Eastern Asia Christian Conference held at Prapat, Indonesia.

Dr. Ranson hailed the meeting as one of the twentieth century's most important Christian conferences and said that it would probably mark a new epoch in the history of missions.

An Asia churchman, Dr. D. T. Niles of Ceylon, warned that missionary societies in the West "cannot abdicate their responsibilities" but must treat Asians "as equals in a new partnership."

Dr. Niles said that the shift in emphasis meant that new ways must be found for cooperation between the traditional missionary agencies and the countries thought of in the past as "missionary fields."

Just back from a global journey on behalf of the World Council of Churches, Dr. J. Oscar Lee reported on problems of intergroup relations as he observed them around the world.

Problems of racial and ethnic tensions are reflected in the churches, the National Council of Churches executive said. "The way the churches deal with these problems both in the community and within the churches may well determine the future of the churches as well as the future of the missionary movement in these countries."

New Work Camp Secretary



Ralph Weltge

A young minister of the Evangelical and Reformed Church has been appointed a secretary for work camps in the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland. The Rev. Ralph Weltge, 26, sailed from New York, May 3.

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Mr. Weltge has been the assistant pastor of the First Evangelical and Reformed Church, Houston, Texas, for the past two years. He received his A.B. degree from Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Ill., in 1952. In 1955 he was graduated from Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo.

CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Sixty guests attended the official welcome on May 18 of Mr. D. H. Rubenstein as the first full-time warden of the Wilgespruit Fellowship Center in the Union of South Africa. The service was held in a stone chapel, built by work campers. The ecumenical center came into being ten years ago when a small prayer group felt the need of a place where Christians of all persuasions and backgrounds could meet together. At that time the group consisted of six men—an American, an Englishman, a Frenchman, a Msutu, a South African and a Zulu. The center is twelve miles from Johannesburg on an abandoned farm.

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More than 3,000 persons of all races marched through Cape Town, South Africa, on May 18, protesting against the Native Laws Amendment Bill. The Anglican Dean of Cape Town, the Very Rev. T. J. Savage, addressed the throng, saying that "We must protest, and, if necessary, disregard this law. We must obey God rather than man."

GUATEMALA: The seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of evangelical Christianity in Guatemala was celebrated on Sunday, May 5, when 40,000 persons marched through the streets of Guatemala City to a huge mass meeting—one of the largest Protestant gatherings ever held in Latin America. The procession, described as unprecedented, filled seventy city blocks. Speakers at the mass meeting in a field provided by the government was Dr. Alfonso Rodriguez of Cuba. He was introduced by President John A. Mackay of Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey.

EAST GERMANY: Forty-four East Berlin pulpits are at present unoccupied. The province of Brandenburg has ninety-six vacancies, and another seventy-four are filled by deputies. General Superintendent Günter Jacob reports that many pastors and pastors' wives "have reached the limit of their physical strength." He said it was lamentable that the authorities in the German Democratic Republic were granting hardly any entry permits to young pastors from the West.



The Rev. Peter Fagel against the background of the 1958 Brussels World Fair. Mr. Fagel is leading the small group who are determined that Protestant churches shall be represented there. Thus far there has been little American support.

POLAND: Pastor Jan Niewieczner, Warsaw, Superintendent of the Reformed Church of Poland, has visited the general secretariat of the World Presbyterian Alliance and the World Council of Churches in Geneva. Today there are not more than 5,000 members of the Polish Reformed Church, which suffered great losses during the last world war. The life of the Church in the Polish People's Republic is now able to develop freely again, but the small Reformed Church, which has only six pastors, needs considerable help from its sister-churches abroad.

FRANCE: On Sunday, May 19, the Rassemblement of Protestantism in the Western area of France was held at Royan. The pattern was similar to that of the Kirchentag in Germany. The president of the German Evangelical Kirchentag Dr. Reinold von Thadden, was one of the speakers at the main public meeting, attended by several thousand people.

AUSTRALIA: By the first week in May, the Australian Council for the World Council of Churches had reported an income of \$91,000 as a result of its annual Christian Remembrance Bowl Appeal. The response marks an eight-percent increase in giving since these appeals were begun in 1950. Gifts are used in nearly 100 Asian countries, in Kenya, Dakar and Europe. The advice of the World Council of Churches